

-- This application is a continuation of International Application PCT/EP00/08817 filed September 9, 2000, which published as WO 01/23446 on April 5, 2001 and which claims priority to German Application No. 199 45 980.0, filed September 24, 1999. --

**In the Claims**

Please cancel claims 1 through 4.

Please add the following new claims 5 through 16 as follows:

- 5. A polyethylene molding compound which comprises
- (A) from 30 to 60% by weight of low-molecular-weight ethylene homopolymer A which has a viscosity number  $VN_A$  in the range from 40 to 150  $\text{cm}^3/\text{g}$ ,
  - (B) from 30 to 65% by weight of high-molecular-weight copolymer B comprising ethylene and a further olefin having from 4 to 10 carbon atoms which has a viscosity number  $VN_B$  in the range from 150 to 800  $\text{cm}^3/\text{g}$ , and
  - (C) from 1 to 30% by weight of ultrahigh-molecular-weight ethylene homopolymer or copolymer C which has a viscosity number  $VN_C$  in the range from 900 to 3000  $\text{cm}^3/\text{g}$  and

the molding compound has a multimodal molecular weight distribution which has an overall density of 0.940  $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$  and an  $\text{MFI}_{190/5}$  in the range from 0.01 to 10 dg/min.

6. The polyethylene molding compound according to claim 5, which has excellent convertibility into hollow articles, expressed by a swelling rate in the range from 100 to 300%.

7. A method for the production of the polyethylene molding compound according to claim 5, which comprises carrying out the polymerization of the monomers in suspension at a temperature in the range from 20 to 120°C, a pressure in the range from 2 to 60 bar and in the presence of a Ziegler catalyst which comprises a transition-metal compound and an organoaluminium compound, and the polymerization is carried out in three steps, with the

molecular weight of the polyethylene produced in each step in each case being regulated with the aid of hydrogen.

8. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the polymerization is carried out in a cascaded suspension polymerization.

9. The polyethylene molding composition according to claim 15, wherein the multimodal molecular weight distribution is a trimodal molecular weight distribution.

10. The polyethylene molding composition according to claim 5, wherein the further olefin is in an amount up to 5% by weight.

11. The polyethylene molding composition according to claim 5, wherein the molding composition contains up to 10% by weight of one or more comonomers selected from the group consisting of 1-butene, 1-pentene, 1-hexene, 1-octene and 4-methyl-1-pentene.

12. The molding compound according to claim 5, wherein the molding compound has a viscosity number  $VN_{tot}$  in the range from 190 to 700  $cm^3/g$ .

13. The molding compound according to claim 5, wherein the molding compound has a viscosity number  $VN_{tot}$  in the range from 250 to 500  $cm^3/g$ .

14. An article which comprises the molding composition according to claim 5.

15. The article as claimed in claim 14, wherein the article is a fuel tank, canister, drum or bottle.